

THE HEARING

WAS HELD AT TRENTON LAST WEDNESDAY.

Both Sides Were Heard by the State Senate Committee—The Annexationists Outnumbered in Attendance, Outclassed in Oratory, and in the Minority with Their Petition.

The Senate Committee on Municipal Corporations gave a hearing on Wednesday morning in the State House at Trenton on Senator McCarter's bill for annexing Bloomfield to Newark. The anti-annexationists were represented by David G. Garbrant, Allison Dodd, Dr. W. R. Broughton, J. M. Mann, William Douglas Moore, Theodore H. Ward, George M. Wood, Solomon Harris, Chas. W. Martin, James C. Beach, Fred J. Ogden, M. N. Higgins, John Newton, William P. Sutphen, A. H. Olmsted, J. Howard Hardcastle, John Delhagen, Harry L. Osborne and William A. Ritscher, Jr.

The annexationists were represented by Charles W. Powers, Thomas B. Baxter, R. K. Schuyler, Arthur Spragg, James Y. Nichol, Ernest Raafaub, Geo. Fisher, John Hyde, J. Milton Usanget, Reuben N. Dodd and Thos. E. Cogan were present as neutral spectators.

The annexationists were first on the scene, and M. N. Higgins, who went with them to Trenton, had to stand a great deal of jolly as the "lone annexationist," but later on a solid phalanx of "antis" reinforced Mr. Higgins, and it was the turn of the "Pro's" to feel isolated and lonesome.

Senator Cross and Senator Johnson constituted the Senate committee, and

Mr. Garbrant declared, but what opposed the present bill.

He told of the detrimental and injurious effect it would have upon the town's excellent public school system, and also claimed that annexation would prove detrimental to the moral welfare of the town in that it deprived the people of control of the licensing saloons.

To prove to the committee that the geographical conditions were not favorable to an annexation, Mr. Garbrant produced a map showing the relative positions of Newark and Bloomfield. The map attracted the particular attention of the Senators and made a deep impression upon them.

Mr. Garbrant was followed by Allison Dodd, who corroborated Mr. Garbrant, and directed the committee's attention to a survey of the respective contingencies for and against annexation.

Mr. Dodd was opposed to submitting the question at this point, as there was no necessity for a vote of it.

M. N. Higgins followed Mr. Dodd, and made one of the telling points against the bill. Senator McCarter laid stress upon the referendum feature of the bill, and Mr. Higgins claimed that if the referendum meant that the bill should be voted on at a general election it was practically of little use. Mr. Higgins claimed that so many other questions entered into a general election that the non-tax paying element would indulge in vote trading, and perhaps vote for annexation in order to secure votes for some favorite candidate for office. If the question was to be voted on at all, Mr. Higgins, said, it should be made the sole issue at a special election.

Senator Cross asked if a special election was satisfactory to both sides.

James C. Beach replied that there was no need for any election at all. The majority of the people of Bloomfield did not want annexation and ought not to be put to the trouble and expense of voting on it. The people wanted the bill killed in the Legislature, and that was what they were at Trenton for. Mr. Beach cited some statistics to show that while Bloomfield had a heavy bonded indebtedness, it had some substantial

TOWN COUNCIL

NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY'S TELEPHONE CONDUIT FRANCHISE GRANTED.

Two Applications for License Transfers—Complaints from Flood sufferers—A Damage Claim Reported for Settlement.

The Town Council meeting was attended Monday night by a large number of people, many of whom had business of one kind and another with the Council. The absence of First Assistant Chief Engineer Eichhorn was noted among the regular spectators, but Lake Street was nevertheless represented at the meeting. A delegation from the Montgomery section was present with complaints about damage suffered from flooded streets.

Councilman Farrand, Chairman of the Road Committee, stated that owing to the storms of late the streets had been considerably damaged, and not a few property-owners had suffered damage and been inconvenienced from the flood that occurred on Friday. The damage to the roads, Mr. Farrand said, could be repaired with topdressing, and the complaints from private individuals involved considerable drainage work which the Road Committee would take up as soon as possible. He alluded in particular to the trouble in the Montgomery district, which he said would receive immediate attention.

The New York and New Jersey Telephone Company's conduit franchise, a matter that has been before the Council for nearly two years, was finally passed on Monday night.

Some of the provisions of the franchise are that the company agrees to provide space in the subways for the placing of town fire-alarm wires, and also police-alarm wires, the company to do the work of placing such wires in the subway, and the town to furnish the material necessary for such work; and the company agrees to pay to the town such taxes as shall be lawfully assessed upon it, and is to provide the town with a certain number of free telephones for official use, and to provide telephone service in the public schools at half rates. The charge for service shall not exceed the rates charged for similar service in Montclair.

The company promises to have at least three-quarters of a mile of the subway system completed and in operation within six months from the time of granting the franchise. The granting of this franchise will result in the removal of a part of the network of overhead wires that now cover a number of the streets in the town. This subway ordinance is the same as is now in force in other towns where the telephone company has its wires under ground.

Councilman Usanget congratulated the Legal Committee and the Chairman of the Council upon the highly satisfactory completion of their work in framing the franchise ordinance.

John A. Lawrence of the Essex Cross Railroad requested that no further action be taken in regard to that company's application for a franchise until the next meeting of the Council, March 17. His request was granted.

The Board of Health's request for an additional appropriation of \$1,500 was granted. Councilman Farrand asked if it was necessary to make the appropriation immediately. Chairman Ward answered that it was, for while the Board of Health's account showed a balance of \$700, it had outstanding obligations of \$1,200.

Councilman Usanget made some inquiries as to the duties of the Town Physician, Dr. W. H. Van Gieson, and among them he wanted to know if that physician was not obliged to vaccinate persons who were unable to pay the usual fee, especially when requested to do so by a Councilman or the Chairman of the Alms Committee.

Town Attorney Halfpenny gave it as his opinion that all such cases were legally within the province of Dr. Van Gieson's duties as Town Physician. Mr. Usanget said he had sent a poor woman and her three children to Dr. Van Gieson to be vaccinated, and the physician refused to perform the service. Chairman Ward directed the clerk to send a communication to Dr. Van Gieson and tell him, in the opinion of the Council, he had been derelict in his duties and the Council hoped it would not occur again.

Otto G. Beyer made an application for a transfer of the hotel license held by him at Watchung Avenue and Broad Street to Clarence M. Smith. Councilman Farrand asked if any of the Councilmen knew Smith. Councilman Usanget said he could vouch for the man. Mr. Harrison said that Smith was not a resident, and inquiry should be made as to his qualifications; that there were residents of the town whose applications for licenses had been refused.

Mr. Usanget asked Mr. Harrison if the man he had in view to take Beyer's place was a resident of the town. Chairman Ward declared the question out of order and the argument ceased.

Theodore O. Steenwirth of 446 Bloomfield Avenue applied for a transfer of his license to the Aitken House opposite. Both applications were, under the rules, laid over.

Chief of Police Collins' report showed seven arrests during February and \$30 collected in fines. The ordinance changing the name of Essex Street to Jerome Place passed its final reading.

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Bloomfield Citizen

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All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1902.

More Evening News Lies.

There has never been a more conspicuous case of deliberate lying than has been manifested in the course pursued by the Newark Evening News with respect to the annexation question now agitating this town. The first lie that the News circulated was to the effect that the people here wanted to be annexed to Newark, and the opposition was insignificant. That lie could have been excused as an error of judgment, but all chance for excuse was nullified when the News followed its first lie and audaciously put a false statement to the credit of Director McGowan of the Board of Freeholders by quoting Mr. McGowan as saying that there was no opposition to his account in Bloomfield against annexation. Mr. McGowan was indignant over being so falsely quoted, and made haste to emphatically deny the statement made by the News.

In its account of the hearing on the annexation bill that took place in Trenton on Wednesday the News indulged in wholesale falsehood, and deliberately ridiculed the delegation that appeared in opposition to annexation.

Mr. Allison Dodd, Mr. Wm. Douglas Moore and others who were at Trenton have expressed themselves at a loss to understand why the Newark News should so falsify what occurred at the hearing. In its account of the Trenton conference the News says:

"While the Bloomfield anti-annexationists were at the capital Wednesday it was practically agreed that opposition to the passage of the McCarter act for consolidating that municipality with Newark should be withdrawn on condition that the referendum clause should be so amended as to provide for the submission of the question of annexation to the popular vote at a special election for that purpose."

The statement that an agreement was reached is about as far from the truth as it is possible to get, and there is no question about it but that the lie is deliberately published for a purpose.

There was nothing done or said by the opposition delegation to even give color to the statement that an agreement of any kind was reached.

In its zeal to belittle the opposition to annexation the News tries to make it appear that both sides were equally represented at Trenton. Speaking of the pro-annexation delegation the News says:

"Former Assemblyman Charles W. Powers headed the annexation crowd, and with him R. K. Schuyler, George Fisher, John Hyde, Reuben Dodd, Thomas Cogan, Thomas B. Baxter, John Y. Nichol, Arthur Spragg and a number of others."

The "number of others" consisted solely of J. Milton Usanget and Ernest Raafaub. Mr. Dodd, who is classed by the News among the annexationists is not one of them.

The animus of the News against Bloomfield is apparent in its classification of the anti-annexation delegation. It says:

"In the anti-annexation delegation were Theodore Ward, Chairman of the Town Council; Councilman George M. Wood, Michael N. Higgins, Town Surveyor A. H. Olmsted, Town Treasurer Harry Osborn, Town Collector Howard Hardcastle, David G. Garbrant, James Beach and several other town officials and citizens."

Nineteen people made up the "anti" delegation, and including School Trustees there was seven officials in the delegation.

The News tries to make it appear that office-holders were in the majority "Douglas Moore," the News says, was spokesman for the opposition party.

Mr. Moore says that is false, he occupied no such position. David G. Garbrant, Mr. Moore says, was the recognized spokesman of the party, and made the principal speech against the passage of the annexation bill. The News ignores Mr. Garbrant entirely. If the account of the Trenton conference given by the News is a specimen of the veracity of the Trenton news published by that paper, then the readers of that paper are being sadly misinformed.

The effect of the News lie about Mr. McGowan was to bring that gentleman out against the annexation bill, and the effect of that paper's lying account of the Trenton conference leads to the inference that a Newark clique is putting up money to force annexation, and some of the money is finding its way to

THE SPRING ELECTION

Town Clerk Has His Notice Prepared—The Offices to be Filled—Uncertainty About the Action of the Legislature.

Town Clerk William L. Johnson has reported the official notice of the annual town election to be held on April 8. The offices to be voted for are as follows:

A Councilman at Large to succeed Theodore H. Ward, a member of Council from the First Ward to succeed George M. Wood; Second Ward to succeed James J. Thompson; Third Ward to succeed John R. Conian. One member of the Board of Education from each ward to succeed Joseph F. Vogelius, First Ward; Thomas Oakes, Second Ward; Charles W. Martin, Third Ward.

Two constables in the First Ward and one in the Second Ward are to be elected. The Second Ward constable succeeds William Fornoff, who was elected last year but failed to qualify

and was subsequently appointed by the Council to hold office until the next town election. The town is entitled to eight Justices of the Peace, and the five now in office and whose terms held over are Police Recorder Jacob G. Post, William B. Hall, George M. Cadmus, James G. Van Winkle, and Thomas E. Hayes. Three additional justices are to be elected. The party and independent nominations must be made in time to be filed with the Town Clerk ten days previous to election day.

All of the above routine is dependent upon the action of the Legislature with respect to the election merger bill which abolishes spring elections. It is said now that the Legislature may not adjourn until the 28th inst., and if that is the case and the merger bill is not passed, if it passes at all until the last hours of the session, much of the preparatory work of the election will have been done even to making nominations. If the election is to be held the Board of Registry will meet on Tuesday, April 1, for the purpose of revising the registry list and registering voters.

Newark Wants a Referendum.

Before "Bloomfield and its farms" are taken into Newark the people of the city, the Newark Daily Advertiser says, should have a vote on the question.

Col. Price said that if the law gives the referendum only to the township the city must annex the territory of the people if the township vote for annexation. He also said that the city should have a voice in the matter of Clinton, Bloomfield and any other township or town that desires to become a part of the city.

"While I am in favor of a Greater Newark," said Philip Dowd, President of the Tax Board, "I am opposed to taking in farm districts by piecemeal. Newark should have the power of deciding whether it wants to annex new territory, and it is not right to force this city to annex a township whether it is desirable or not.

"Before the Township of Clinton or any other territory is annexed by the city, we should be furnished with a statement of the true financial condition of the township, and also the character of the improvements it needs and will demand after it becomes a part of the city. The people of the township naturally want to be taken into the city for the municipal benefits they expect to get. But the taxpayers of Newark should know whether, if a new territory is annexed, it will increase the city's expenses and tax rate."

"Of course the people of the township expect to be benefited by annexation to Newark, and they are willing to pay a HIGHER TAX RATE for the benefit of police and fire protection, and to get a water supply from the city's plant. But when the township is a part of the city it will develop, as the annexed district has, and add to the wealth of the city."



This map shows the relative position of Newark and Bloomfield, and demonstrates that there is no geographical reason for annexation.

Improvements to show for the money expended; but to be annexed to Newark was simply exchanging a \$300,000 debt for a \$1,000,000 one.

William Douglas Moore made an effective speech against annexation, and went over the whole ground very thoroughly. He claimed that in all movements where larger municipalities had been created by the absorption of smaller ones, the interests of the smaller places had suffered from annexation. Mr. Moore and Senator McCarter had a brief controversy over the respective tax rates of Bloomfield and Newark. Mr. Moore said Bloomfield's tax rate was \$3.25. Mr. McCarter retorted that Newark's was only \$2.16. "But," said Mr. Moore, "when you add Newark's special assessments for street improvements to Newark's tax rate there is no difference in the total amounts of tax paid by property-owners in the two places; and besides Bloomfield had the best of assurances that these taxes were going to be lower, while there was every indication that the city's tax would be higher."

The time arrived for the regular session of the Senate, and an end to the hearing. The anti-annexationists felt well satisfied with the trip to Trenton, and believe that the have accomplished good results. The majority of the delegations left for home as soon as the hearing was over. Mr. Beach stayed later to have a talk with Governor Murphy, and M. N. Higgins stopped to interview the Democratic Senators.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Powers some of the anti-annexationists got passes to inspect some of the State institutions at Trenton, and spent the balance of the day in sightseeing.

Assemblyman Boyd was pleased to meet such a large delegation of his constituents at the State House, and gave them cordial greeting.

Mr. Garbrant led off. He is address by pointing out the fact that demonstrated that the people of Bloomfield not annexation. He told of his visit at Judge Dodd's home, and discussed the matter with the local business men, resulting in the finding that the time had come for a vote on the question. He also reported that the sentiment was unanimous in favor of annexation, and told how three days upward of 1,000 signatures had been obtained to a petition.

Mr. Powers regarded the bill as a fair one, particularly in that it permitted a referendum. There was a strong sentiment, he said, in the town in favor of annexation, as evidenced by a petition to that effect now in the hands of the committee, and in his opinion the opposition was confined largely to officeholders and the local press.

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case to the State House, and gave them cordial greeting.

Mr. Garbrant closed his speech by pointing out the fact that demonstrated that the people of Bloomfield not annexation. He told of his visit at Judge Dodd's home, and discussed the matter with the local business men, resulting in the finding that the time had come for a vote on the question. He also reported that the sentiment was unanimous in favor of annexation, and told how three days upward of 1,000 signatures had been obtained to a petition.

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